Abstract
Elementary education is the most crucial stage of education as the basic skills of reading; writing and arithmetic are acquired at this stage. In India, the subject of providing education is a part of the concurrent list of the constitution. The role of universal elementary education for strengthening the fabric of democracy, through provision of equal opportunities to all for the development of their inherent individual potential, was accepted in Article 45 under which the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution provide free and compulsory education to all children until they complete the age of 14 years. The state Punjab was reorganized to its present form in 1966. At that time (1966) approximate half of its educational institutes were goes* to Haryana state. But it is fact that in Punjab more emphasis is given to primary (6-11 years) education than elementary (11-14 years) education. The Punjab Government introduced new education policy in 2002. According to this policy separate Directorates of Primary Education and Secondary Education have been set up. This policy has restructured four levels of school education into two levels i.e. elementary and secondary level and now elementary education consists of 1-8 classes.

The present study is confined to the state of Punjab. Four districts i.e. Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiapur and SBS Nagar are selected to see the progress of elementary education in Doaba area of Punjab. Teacher Pupil Ratio, No of schools, Number of Students and Number of Teachers, Dropout Rate, and Amount spent by the Punjab Govt. are the highlighted issues of the present research. The researcher collects the data on the above mentioned areas of elementary education from 1966 to 2008. The Annual Reports of Punjab Education Department, The Statistical Branch of the Director of Public Instructions, Punjab (Chandigarh), Statistical Abstract of Punjab-1966-2009,issued by Economic Adviser of Govt. of Punjab, Annual plans of Govt of Punjab, Report on Monitoring of the financial Management and Procurement Relating to Sarav Sikhshya Abhiyan in Punjab, sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, Dept of Planning Economic and Statistical Organization, Govt. of India, Elementary education in unrecognized schools in India- A Study of Punjab based on DISE 2005, Data and reports of various Commissions are the major sources of collection of data. Data is represented and interpreted in the form of percentage and statistical graphs. 1) To study the progress of elementary education in Punjab. 2) To trace the changes in the curriculum. 3) To find out number of teachers (sex wise) in elementary schools of Doaba area. 4) To find out enrolment in primary and middle schools of Doaba area. 5) To find out number of
students (sex wise) in elementary schools. 6) To find out number of drop outs (year wise) in elementary schools. 7) To assess the pupil teacher ratio in Punjab. 8) To ascertain the progress of elementary education, it is also necessary to trace the amount spent by Punjab government on elementary education for providing facilities like furniture, library and physical education. 9) On the basis of data and its interpretation, it will be analyzed and discussed that how elementary education program can be effectively carried on for elimination of illiteracy from Punjab? Findings are: (1) The number of schools increased year by year from 1966-67. (2) It is further indicating that percentage of boys’ schools at three levels i.e. Primary, Middle and High is always higher as compared to percentage of girls’ institutes at corresponding levels. (3) The difference between percentage of boy’s schools and percentage of girl’s schools increased year by year. (4) The study about Punjab reveals that the enrolment at primary level is higher than that of middle level. From 1967-2002, the difference between percentage of enrolment at primary level and middle level was very high as compared to 2002-2009. (5) In Punjab, the enrolment ratio of male students is always higher than the female students. (6) The enrolment ratio of male students is higher than the female students in Doaba Region. The study also reveals that in Doaba Region the enrolment at primary level is higher than that of middle level. From 1967-2007, the difference between percentage of enrolment at primary level and middle level is very high as compared to 2007-2009. (6) The study of enrolment of boys as compared to enrolment of girls at Primary and Middle level separately; reveals that the percentage of enrolment of boys is high as compared to girls’ enrolment at Primary as well as at Middle level in Punjab. (7) It is found that PTR at primary stage is higher than VI-VIII Grade. (8) The study reveals that number of teachers in Punjab increased in 2008-09 i.e. 92952 as compared to number of teachers in 1966-67 i.e. 51371. (9) In different five year plans, the expenditure is more than expected expenditure on general education in Punjab. (10) Punjab Govt. has introduced education policy in 2002. Computer education has been made compulsory in schools of Punjab from the lower standard. English has been introduced from class Ist in govt. schools.